GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1867
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
ILLEGAL TRADE IN PEACOCK FEATHERS
MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that peacock feather sellers cut the shaft of the feathers so that the blood in the shaft which shows the bird has been killed is hidden;

(b) if so, whether any survey on the feathers available in the market has been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against sellers of deshafted peacock feathers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) Peafowl is found over major area of the country. Peacock tail feathers are naturally shed, annually, and are collected by local people, in rural and urban areas, for religious and other purposes. Incidents of deaths of peafowl due to consumption of seeds laced with pesticide, and that of poaching, largely for meat, have come to the notice of the government. However, there are no evidences to suggest that peacocks are being killed solely for obtaining tail feathers. Further, the State Governments and law enforcing agencies have not reported that the shaft of tail feathers of peacock are cut before selling for hiding the bloodstains. There is no organised market of peacock tail feathers. No survey for sale of shaft-cut peacock tail feathers has been conducted.